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7 TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

8 UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT

9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

10 LOS ANGELES DIVISION

11 In re,

Case No. 2:17-bk-21970-VZ

13 CARLOS GALVAN MARTINEZ,

Chapter Number: 13

14 Debtor,

15 **SECURED CREDITOR TRINITY
16 FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC'S MOTION
17 TO DISMISS CHAPTER 13
18 BANKRUPTCY CASE**

19 Date: December 13, 2018

20 Time: 11:00 a.m.

21 Dept: 1368

22 **TO THE HONORABLE VINCENT P. ZURZOLO; THE DEBTOR; ALL
23 INTERESTED PARTIES; AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD:**

24 **CREDITOR TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC** hereby moves (the “Motion”)
this Court to dismiss the above-titled Chapter 13 bankruptcy case pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §
1307(c).

25 **INTRODUCTION**

26 Creditor Trinity Financial Services, LLC (“Trinity”) hereby moves (the “Motion”) this
27 Court for dismissal of this case for “cause” pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1307(c)(1) and (4) based on
28 the Debtor’s failure to propose a confirmable plan, as well as the Debtor’s failure and inability to

1 make post-petition payments to Trinity. This Motion is brought in accordance with Federal Rules
2 of Bankruptcy Procedure 9013 and 9014. In support of this motion, Trinity requests that the
3 Court take judicial notice of its own records in this case pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 201, made
4 applicable to bankruptcy proceedings by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 9017.

5 **STATEMENT OF FACTS**

6 1. The Debtor filed a voluntary Chapter 13 bankruptcy petition with this Court on or
7 about September 29, 2017 (the “Petition Date”), initiating the instant case identified as Case
8 Number 2:17-bk-21970-VZ.

9 2. On October 2, 2017, the Debtor filed his initial Chapter 13 plan [Docket No. 13].

10 3. On November 14, 2017, the Debtor filed an Amended Chapter 13 plan [Docket
11 No. 17].

12 4. On November 16, 2017, the Chapter 13 Trustee, Nancy Curry, filed her Objection
13 to Confirmation of Chapter 13 Plan [Docket No. 20]. The Trustee objected to the Debtor’s
14 income, Debtor’s Schedules I and D, and Form 122C-1. The Trustee also stated that “[t]he Plan
15 is infeasible because scheduled income and expenses result in less than what is required to fund
16 the Plan.” The Trustee also objected to the Debtor’s failure to provide payment advices and other
17 supporting documents.

18 5. On December 8, 2017, the Debtor filed his Amended Chapter 13 Plan [Docket No.
19 25] (the “Plan”).

20 6. On December 20, 2017, the Debtor filed his Notice of Hearing on his motion to
21 avoid Trinity’s lien [Docket No. 28].

22 7. On January 10, 2018, the Court entered its Order Denying Debtor’s Motion to
23 Avoid Junior Lien on Principal Residence [Docket No. 33].

24 8. On October 1, 2018, Plaintiff filed his Complaint to Avoid Junior Lien on
25 Principal Residence (“Complaint”) and was assigned Adversary Case No. 2:18-bk-01009-VZ.

26 9. On January 16, 2018 the Court’s Summons was issued to Trinity.

27 10. On February 13, 2018, Trinity filed its Claim No. 2-1 on account of its secured
28 claim for \$108,767.05, including \$51,404.64 in prepetition arrearages.

1 11. On March 6, 2018, Plaintiff filed his Summons Service executed on Trinity
2 Financial Services, LLC [Adversary Docket No. 12].

3 12. On March 20, 2018, Trinity filed its Answer to Debtor's Complaint to Avoid
4 Junior Lien on Principal Residence [Adversary Docket No. 14].

5 13. On March 20, 2018, Trinity filed its Declaration re: Appraiser in Support of
6 Answer to Debtor's Complaint to Avoid Junior Lien on Principal Residence [Adversary Docket
7 No. 14].

8 14. On March 21, 2018, Plaintiff filed his Status Report [Adversary Docket No. 16].

9 15. On March 21, 2018, Trinity filed its Status Report [Adversary Docket No. 17].

10 16. On May 30, 2018, Plaintiff filed his Status Report [Adversary Docket No. 18].

11 17. On June 14, 2018, Trinity filed its Status Report [Adversary Docket No. 21].

12 18. On October 1, 2018, Trinity filed the Joint Stipulation to use of Third Party
13 Appraiser and to Extend Discovery Deadline, Written Expert Reports Deadline and Supporting
14 Declarations Deadline from October 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018 [Adversary Docket No. 23].

15 19. On October 2, 2018, Trinity filed its Notice of Lodgment of Order Granting Joint
16 Stipulation to use of Third Party Appraiser and to Extend Discovery Deadline, Written Expert
17 Reports Deadline and Supporting Declarations Deadline from October 1, 2018 to October 31,
18 2018 [Adversary Docket No. 24].

19 20. On October 4, 2018, the Court entered its Order Granting Stipulation to use of
20 Third Party Appraiser and to Extend Discovery Deadline, Written Expert Reports Deadline and
21 Supporting Declarations Deadline from October 1, 2018 to October 31, 2018 [Adversary Docket
22 No. 25].

23 21. On November 2, 2018, Trinity filed the parties' jointly selected appraiser's
24 Declaration re: Direct Testimony of Third-Party Appraiser Re: Complaint to Avoid Junior Lien
25 On Principal Residence [11 USC Section 506(d)] [Adversary Docket No. 27].

26 22. On October 1, 2018, Trinity filed the Stipulation Resolving Adversary Proceeding
27 and for Entry of Judgment [Adversary Docket No. 29] (the "Stipulation").

23. On November 14, 2018, Trinity filed the Notice of Lodgment of Order Approving Stipulation Resolving Adversary Proceeding and for Entry of Judgment [Adversary Docket No. 30].

24. In the Stipulation, the Debtor and Trinity agreed that the value of the Debtor's principal residence was \$834,982.01 as of the confirmation hearing date in this case. The parties also agreed Trinity's Claim No. 2-1 was to be treated as a secured claim.

ARGUMENT

A. The Case Should Be Dismissed for the Debtor's Failure to Prosecute

26. Upon Trinity's information and belief, the unresolved points raised in the pending objection by the Chapter 13 trustee prevent confirmation of the Plan.

27. As pointed out by the Trustee in November 2017, the Debtor's proposed plan was infeasible at that time because the Debtor only had a "\$177/mo" net income when his plan required payments of "\$235/mo" [Docket No. 20].

28. In the Stipulation, the Debtor agreed that Trinity's claim would be treated as a secured claim in his Chapter 13 plan. However, the Plan fails to provide for Trinity's secured claim. The Debtor has not filed a new plan addressing secured claims as required.

25. This case has been pending since September 29, 2017. Insufficient overall progress has been made toward confirming a plan in this case. In light of the outstanding impediments to confirmation, creditors and the trustee are uncertain as to when, or whether, any plan in this case will ever be confirmable.

26. This lack of progress in accomplishing plan confirmation constitutes unreasonable delay that is prejudicial to creditors, because creditors are not receiving payments and/or cannot exercise their state court remedies to collect their debts while the debtor enjoys the benefit of bankruptcy protection in this case.

27. Section 1307(c) of the Bankruptcy Code authorizes Trinity to bring a motion to dismiss a chapter 13 case for “cause” if it is in the best interests of the creditors and the estate. The Court can consider any “cause,” including but not limited to the enumerated grounds in subsection (c). Section 1307(c)(1) permits dismissal for “unreasonable delay by the debtor that is

1 prejudicial to creditors.” 11 U. S.C. § 1307(c)(1). Section 1307(c) also lists “(4) failure to
2 commence making timely payments” as additional grounds for dismissal of a case.

3 28. A debtor filing a chapter 13 case assumes responsibility for taking reasonable steps
4 to move the case towards timely confirmation of a chapter 13 plan. *In re Jackson*, 2007 WL
5 1188202, at *7 (Bankr. E.D. Pa. Apr. 18, 2007). Chapter 13 debtors simply do not have an
6 unlimited amount of time to accomplish plan confirmation. *In re Tran*, 2006 WL 6811015, at *7
7 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. Aug. 8, 2006). Prompt plan confirmation is important because creditors’ rights
8 are constrained by the automatic stay as soon as the petition is filed. As a result, courts have
9 dismissed cases based on debtor inaction. *See Jackson*, 2007 WL 1188202 at *7 (dismissing case
10 at seven months because debtor was no closer to confirmation than the day the case was filed).

11 29. This case has been pending for over 13 months with little to no progress. The
12 Debtor has failed to propose a confirmable plan. Despite the Chapter 13 Trustee’s objection to
13 the Plan, the Debtor has made no effort to address creditors’ claims with a feasible proposal for
14 reorganization. Nor has the Debtor filed a third amended plan to properly provide for Trinity’s
15 secured claim.

16 30. In light of the passage of time and the failure of the Debtor to prosecute a
17 confirmable plan, the Court should dismiss this case pursuant to Sections 1307(c)(1) and (4).

18 **B. The Case Should Be Dismissed due to Plan Infeasibility**

19 31. The Debtor’s first lien, Ocwen, filed Proof of Claim No. 1-1 in the amount of
20 \$703,017.60 on February 5, 2018.

21 32. Trinity’s second lien is on file as Proof of Claim No. 2-1 in the amount of
22 \$108,767.05, including \$51,404.64 in pre-petition arrearages.

23 33. The Debtor and Trinity stipulated to employ the value of appraiser Michael Turner
24 as the value of the subject property in this case [Main Case Docket No. 38; Adversary Docket No.
25 23]. Mr. Turner’s appraisal for the subject property determined a value of \$815,000 as of the
26 parties’ effective date of October 5, 2018. Mr. Turner’s appraisal further reflects a value of
27 \$834,982.01 as of the confirmation hearing date of March 11, 2019 [Docket No. 27]. Because
28

1 this value is higher than the amount of the Debtor's first lien, Trinity's lien is at least partially
2 secured, indicating that Trinity's lien cannot be stripped.

3 34. 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B)(ii) requires a debtor's Chapter 13 plan to distribute at
4 least the allowed amount of a creditor's secured claim. *See* 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B)(ii).
5 Furthermore, the requirement that a debtor provide for the full value of a creditor's secured claim
6 is mandatory for plan confirmation. *See Barnes v. Barnes (In re Barnes)*, 32 F. 3d 405, 407 (9th
7 Cir. 1994); *see also In re Lucas*, 3 B.R. 252, 253 (Bankr. S.D. Cal. 1980) ("In order to confirm
8 any Chapter 13 Plan, the court must be satisfied . . . that the plan meets all the requirements of §
9 1325(a)."). The burden lies with the debtor in demonstrating compliance with section 1325(a).
10 *Chinichian v. Campolongo (In re Chinichian)*, 784 F. 2d 1440 (9th Cir. 1986).

11 35. Section 1322(b)(2) states that a Chapter 13 plan may "modify the rights of holders
12 of secured claims, other than a claim secured only by a security interest in real property that is the
13 debtor's principal residence." Trinity's claim is secured by the Debtor's principal residence.
14 Thus, the plan may not modify Trinity's secured claim. *See Nobelman v. Am. Sav. Bank*, 508
15 U.S. 324, 329, 113 S. Ct. 2106, 2110, 124 L. Ed. 2d 228 (1993) (determination that bank's claim
16 is partially secured "does not necessarily mean that the 'rights' the bank enjoys as a mortgagee,
17 which are protected by § 1322(b)(2), are limited by the valuation of its secured claim.").

18 36. Trinity's filed proof of claim lists \$51,404.64 in prepetition arrears. Spread over
19 the repayment term of thirty six months as proposed in the Plan, the Debtor would have to pay
20 \$1,427.91 a month in prepetition arrears to pay Trinity's prepetition arrears in full. Even spread
21 over the maximum permissible length of a Chapter 13 Plan—sixty months—the Debtor's plan
22 would still have to pay \$856.75 a month in prepetition arrears to pay Trinity's prepetition arrears
23 in full.

24 37. The Debtor would also have to pay the variable monthly payments for Trinity's
25 claim on a go-forward basis in order to confirm a plan. Trinity's proof of claim indicates these
26 payments were \$424.24 at the time of case commencement.

27 38. The Debtor's latest Schedule J [Docket No. 19] indicates the Debtor has only
28 \$235.00 in net income to fund the Plan. The Debtor's scheduled expenses exclude any payments

1 on Trinity's second lien, so the Debtor's net income is clearly insufficient to address Trinity's
2 secured claim. Based on his scheduled income and expenses, the Debtor could pay neither the
3 prepetition arrears payment for Trinity's claim, nor the maintenance payment.

4 39. As the Debtor is unable to provide for the cure of Trinity's pre-petition and post-
5 petition arrears based on his net income, any proposed plan violates Section 1322(b)(5). Any
6 plan would also fail to satisfy 11 U.S.C. § 1325(a)(5)(B)(ii) due to failing to treat Trinity's
7 secured claim.

8 40. In light of the above, as the Debtor cannot propose a confirmable plan, this case
9 must be dismissed.

10 **C. The Debtor's Inability to Make Secured Debt Payments Is Cause for**
11 **Dismissal**

12 41. The Debtor has failed to make timely payments to his secured creditor Trinity.
13 The Debtor's complete lack of payments to Trinity under the Plan is a separate and independent
14 cause for dismissal of this case, based on 11 U.S.C. § 1307(c)(4). *In re Seymour*, No. 16-BK-
15 27693-RSB, 2017 WL 5196703, at *5 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. Nov. 9, 2017) (citing *In re Mallory*, 444
16 B.R. 553, 558 (S.D. Tex. 2011) (affirming dismissal of a case for short plan payments) (citation
17 omitted).

18 42. The Plan entirely fails to treat Trinity's secured claim [Docket No. 25]. Trinity's
19 Proof of Claim No. 2-1, secured by the Debtor's residence, reflects the total outstanding balance
20 of \$108,767.05, as well as a pre-petition arrearage claim of \$51,404.64. *See* CCR, Claim No. 2-1.
21 However, the Debtor has made neither the arrearage payments on Trinity's lien, nor his regular
22 monthly payments to Trinity in the amount of \$424.24 every month. In fact, the Debtor has not
23 made any post-petition payments to Trinity at all since the commencement of this case in
24 September 29, 2017. *See* contemporaneously filed *Declaration of Don A. Madden, III*. As
25 reflected by the declaration of Trinity's president, the Debtor is severely in default on his post-
26 petition payments to Trinity for its second lien. Therefore, the Court should dismiss this case due
27 to the Debtor's failure to make payments on his creditors' secured claims.

1 **CONCLUSION**

2 WHEREFORE, Trinity respectfully requests that the Court grant its Motion and dismiss
3 this case for cause pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 1307(c)(1) and (4).

4
5 Dated: November 15, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

6 BURKE, WILLIAMS & SORENSEN, LLP

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8 By: 
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10 Richard J. Reynolds
11 Rafael R. Garcia-Salgado
12 Attorneys for Creditor
13 TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

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Attorneys for Creditor
TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES DIVISION

In re,

Case No. 2:17-bk-21970-VZ

CARLOS GALVAN MARTINEZ,

Chapter Number: 13

Debtor,

**DECLARATION OF DON A. MADDEN, III
IN SUPPORT OF SECURED CREDITOR
TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC'S
MOTION TO DISMISS CHAPTER 13
BANKRUPTCY CASE**

Date: December 13, 2018
Time: 11:00 a.m.
Dept: 1368

I, DON A. MADDEN, III, declare as follows:

1. The following are facts known to me, and I have first-hand knowledge of the same, or are matters of which the Court may take judicial notice. If called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto under oath. I am the President of Movant TRINITY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC (“Trinity”), and I am authorized to make this Declaration. This Declaration is provided in support of Trinity’s *Motion to Dismiss Chapter 13 Bankruptcy Case* (the “Motion”) filed contemporaneously herewith.

2. Trinity is a Wyoming Limited Liability Company active in good standing in

1 Wyoming since February 25, 2014. Trinity has been active and in good standing in California
2 since February 11, 2015.

3 3. Because of my training, management, and work experience at Trinity, I am
4 personally familiar with Trinity's policies, procedures, and practices concerning the purchase of
5 second trust deeds and notes, the servicing of those loans, engaging in loss mitigation of those
6 loans before starting foreclosure proceedings, and performing foreclosures on second deeds of
7 trust in default. I am also personally familiar with the types or kinds of records prepared by
8 Trinity or its agents in the regular course of purchasing second trust deeds and notes, servicing of
9 those loans, engaging in loss mitigation of those loans before starting foreclosure proceedings,
10 and performing foreclosures on second deeds of trust in default. I am also personally familiar
11 with how those records are prepared, and the information and methods of preparation of those
12 records. Therefore, I act as Custodian of Records for Trinity. The exhibits attached to Trinity's
13 Proof of Claim No. 2-1 that are taken from the business records of Trinity were made at or near
14 the time of filing by or from information transmitted by someone with knowledge, the records
15 are kept in the course of regularly conducted activity of Trinity's business, and keeping such
16 records is and was a regular practice of Trinity.

17 4. Trinity is the holder of the promissory note between Debtor Carlos Galvan
18 Martinez, as borrower (the "Debtor"), and National City Bank, as the original lender, dated
19 August 6, 2007 (the "Note"), having purchased it.

20 5. Trinity has physical possession of the original Note.

21 6. Trinity is the holder of a second priority Deed of Trust (the "Deed of Trust")
22 securing the Note and encumbering the real property located at 4628 and 4628 ½ St. Elmo Dr.,
23 Los Angeles, CA 90019 (the "Property"). The legal description for the Property is set forth in
24 the Deed of Trust. The Deed of Trust was recorded against the Property on August 14, 2007, as
25 Document No. 20071903303 in the official records of the Los Angeles County Recorder. The
26 Court is requested to take judicial notice of this document pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 201.

27 7. I have many years of experience working in the lending industry in California and
28 elsewhere within the United States. I have extensive experience with the documentation process

1 for loans secured by real property in California. I also have extensive experience with purchasing
2 loans secured by real property in California and with the documents utilized to effect the transfer
3 of the loans.

4 8. As of the Petition Date, the Debtor had defaulted in his pre-petition payments
5 with respect to the Note. The Debtor has made no payments on the Note since November 2008.

6 9. As of the date of this declaration, Trinity has not received any post-petition
7 payments from the Debtor with respect to the Note.

8 10. Trinity has never sent any type of notification to the Debtor to indicate that the
9 Note had been forgiven or paid off.

10 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the law of the United States of America that
11 the foregoing is true and correct.

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13 Executed this 12th day of November, 2018, at Newport Beach, California.

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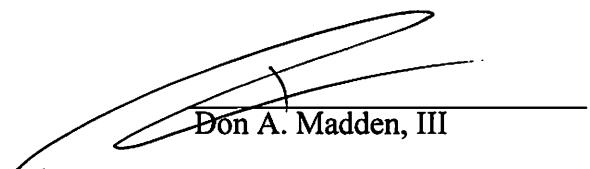
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Don A. Madden, III

PROOF OF SERVICE OF DOCUMENT

I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding. My business address is: **1851 East First Street, Suite 1550, Santa Ana, CA 92705-4067**

A true and correct copy of the foregoing document entitled (*specify*):

MOTION TO DISMISS CHAPTER 13

BANKRUPTCY CASE AND DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS CHAPTER 13 BANKRUPTCY CASE

will be served or was served (a) on the judge in chambers in the form and manner required by LBR 5005-2(d); and (b) in the manner stated below:

1. TO BE SERVED BY THE COURT VIA NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING (NEF):

Pursuant to controlling General Orders and LBR, the foregoing document will be served by the court via NEF and hyperlink to the document. On (*date*) **11/15/18**, I checked the CM/ECF docket for this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding and determined that the following persons are on the Electronic Mail Notice List to receive NEF transmission at the email addresses stated below:

- Nancy K Curry (TR) TrusteeECFMail@gmail.com
- Sean C Ferry sferry@ecf.courtdrive.com, bkyecf@rasflaw.com
- Rafael R Garcia-Salgado rgarcia@bwslaw.com, bantle@bwslaw.com,rjr-nef@bwslaw.com,jgomez@bwslaw.com
- Raymond Perez rperezlaw.ela@gmail.com
- Richard J Reynolds rreynolds@bwslaw.com, psoeffner@bwslaw.com,tmims@bwslaw.com,rjr-nef@bwslaw.com;fcabezas@bwslaw.com
- United States Trustee (LA) ustpregion16.la.ecf@usdoj.gov

Service information continued on attached page

2. SERVED BY UNITED STATES MAIL:

On (*date*) **11/15/18**, I served the following persons and/or entities at the last known addresses in this bankruptcy case or adversary proceeding by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope in the United States mail, first class, postage prepaid, and addressed as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that mailing to the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Debtor:

Carlos Galvan Martinez
4628 1/2 St. Elmo Dr
Los Angeles, CA 90019

Judge:

Honorable Vincent P. Zurzolo
United States Bankruptcy Court
Central District of California
Edward R. Roybal Federal Building and
Courthouse
255 E. Temple Street, Suite 1360
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Service information continued on attached page

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3. SERVED BY PERSONAL DELIVERY, OVERNIGHT MAIL, FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION OR EMAIL (state method for each person or entity served): Pursuant to F.R.Civ.P. 5 and/or controlling LBR, on (date) ____, I served the following persons and/or entities by personal delivery, overnight mail service, or (for those who consented in writing to such service method), by facsimile transmission and/or email as follows. Listing the judge here constitutes a declaration that personal delivery on, or overnight mail to, the judge will be completed no later than 24 hours after the document is filed.

Service information continued
on attached page

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the foregoing is true and correct.

11/15/18 Bernadette C. Antle
Date *Printed Name*



Signature